

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIG. 2 and FIG. 4. These sheets, which include FIG. 2 and FIG. 4, replace the original sheets including FIG. 2 and FIG. 4. In FIG. 2, indicators yes and no have been added at step 44, and in FIG. 4, reference number 60 has been changed to 61.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Information Disclosure Statements

A new Information Disclosure Statement is submitted with this amendment. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider these references and provide initialed Forms-1449.

Drawings and Specification Objections

The drawings and specification were objected to. They both have been amended to eliminate the objections.

Additionally, the specification has been amended to eliminate the priority claim. A revised Application Data Sheet is attached.

Claim Objections and Rejections

Claims 6, 8, and 9 were objected to because of certain informalities.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 USC 112.

Claims 1-3 and 8 were rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,127,069 (Nguyen).

Claims 4 and 16-19 were rejected as obvious in view of Nguyen.

Claims 5-7 and 20 were rejected as obvious, citing Nguyen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,885,158 (Torango et al.)

Claim Amendments

Claim 6, 8, and 9 have been amended to eliminate the informalities.

The claims have also been amended to patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Written Description Requirement

Regarding the rejection of claim 4 for failing to comply with the written description requirement, please see, for example, Applicants' specification at page 13, line 26 to page 14, line 3.

The Cited Art

Nguyen is directed to a gaming system that allows connectivity between various gaming machines 336 and database servers in a gaming entity. (col. 8, lines 32-51). For security purposes, any information transmitted from a gaming machine over a public network to a remote

encrypted using a private key. A public key is obtained by the gaming machine from a remote public key server. When a remote server receives a message containing the encrypted data, the symmetric encryption key is decrypted with a private key residing on the remote server and the symmetrically encrypted information sent from the gaming machine is decrypted using the symmetric encryption key. In addition, a different symmetric encryption key, selected from a pool of such keys, is used for each transaction. (col. 9, lines 15-36; col. 12, lines 4-28; col. 12, line 60 to col. 13, line 3; col. 14, lines 15-40). A gaming machine may also generate a digital signature or some other type of unique identification information, and it may send a digital signature verification request or an identification verification request to a remote server. (col. 10, lines 56-65).

Torango et al. discloses a progressive gaming system. A win event can be automatically generated by a win of a progressive game event at a gaming terminal. (col. 15, lines 41-51).

The Cited References Do Not Disclose Applicants' Claimed Methods

The cited references neither disclose nor suggest Applicants' claimed methods, as set forth in independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 21. Additionally, the cited references do not disclose the two-message procedure of claims 7, 14, and 19 or the single, signed message procedure of claims 8 and 15.

Nguyen discloses symmetrical encrypted techniques for network security. Nguyen does not perform a hashing function over at least a portion of a message to produce a message digest, which is passed through a digital signature algorithm to produce a digitally signed command at a transmitting node. Additionally, Nguyen does not disclose subjecting that digitally signed command at a receiving node to a hashing function to produce a message digest, passing the message digest through a digital signal algorithm to produce a digitally signed command, and comparing the digitally signed command at the receiving node to the digitally signed command from the transmitting node to determine if there is a match.

The disclosure of Torango et al. does not cure these deficiencies of Nguyen. As such, Applicants' claimed invention is not anticipated by Nguyen nor would have been obvious in view of Nguyen, either alone or combination with Torango et al.

Conclusion

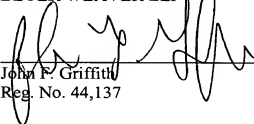
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance of the claims at the earliest possible date is requested.

If prosecution of this application can be assisted by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at (510) 663-1100.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this amendment (including any fees due for an extension of time), such fees may be charged to Deposit Account No. 500388 (Order No. IGT1P306X1).

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Respectfully submitted,
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